

Region 3 GPRA Baseline RCRA Corrective Action Facility

Uniform Tubes, Inc. (UTI)

**200 West Seventh Avenue
Trappe, PA 19426
Congressional District 13
EPA ID #: PAD002344463
Last Updated 12/03/2002**

Current Progress at the Site

On June 30, 1988, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and UTI entered into an Administrative Order on Consent (Order), requiring UTI to conduct a facility-wide investigation of on-site and off-site contamination, as well as to evaluate potential clean-up alternatives.

The results of this facility investigation concluded that elevated concentrations of trichloroethylene (TCE), 1,1,1 trichloroethane (TCA), and chromium were present in soil and groundwater beneath the facility. The primary source of the TCE and TCA in the groundwater was three 550 gallon underground storage tanks which were located under the main building at the facility. These tanks were emptied and taken out of service in 1977. A secondary source of TCE, TCA and chromium in the groundwater was the intermittent historic discharge of contaminated water from a sump located under the main building to a drainage swale located in the northern portion of the property.

On August 6, 1991, EPA issued for public comment a Statement of Basis which described the various clean-up alternatives evaluated by UTI, as well as EPA's preliminary selection of a clean-up remedy for the facility. On March 31, 1992, EPA and UTI entered into a second Consent Order which outlined the requirements for implementing the final remedy at the facility. UTI continues to collect and treat groundwater at the facility, and both off-site and on-site wells are sampled and analyzed to monitor the constituents of concern as part of an interim measure to insure the continued protection of human health and the environment.

In May 2001, EPA approved the revised cleanup remedy for the facility which consists of installation and operation of a soil vapor extraction system and expansion of the groundwater extraction and remediation. This newly designed final remedy will result in a significant reduction in the amount of water to be removed from underground. The soil vapor extraction system was brought on-line on June 14, 2002. Start up of the newly designed groundwater extraction and remediation occurred on August 12, 2002.

On August 11, 1995, EPA determined that both the Human Exposures and Groundwater Environmental Indicators have been met.

Site Description

The Uniform Tubes Inc. (UTI) facility consists of approximately 40 acres located at 200 West 7th Avenue in the Borough of Trappe, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania. Operations at this facility began in 1964, and continue today. UTI manufactures high-precision, small diameter metal tubing and tubular parts.

Site Responsibility

RCRA Corrective Action activities at this facility are being conducted under the direction of EPA Region 3 with assistance from the State.

Contaminants

The contaminants of concern at the facility are TCE, TCA, and chromium in the groundwater.

Community Interaction

On August 6, 1991, EPA issued for public comment a Statement of Basis which described the various clean-up alternatives evaluated by UTI, as well as EPA's preliminary selection of a clean-up remedy for the facility. The Statement of Basis, and the administrative record file for the facility were made available to the public for a forty-five (45) day comment period. A public meeting was held on September 5, 1991 and the public comment period ended on September 20, 1991. On September 30, 1991, EPA issued a Final Decision and Response to Comments which identified the remedy it selected for implementation at the facility, and provided responses to all of the comments received at the public meeting and all written comments received during the public comment period.

There are a number of private drinking wells located within a quarter-mile radius of the facility, some of which contain TCE/TCA that migrated from the facility. All impacted residences were either connected to the municipal water supply system or were provided bottled water by UTI. None of the private drinking water wells now in use are known to have levels of TCE/TCA in excess of acceptable Maximum Contaminant Levels.

Government Contact

EPA Project Manager
Ms. Tran Tran - 3WC22
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029
Phone: (215) 814-2079
Email: tran.tran@epa.gov

For more information about EPA's corrective action webpage, including Environmental Indicators, please visit our site at: www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm